A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION

Thursday, October 19. 1710.

I Had purpoſed to have enter'd farther in this Paper, upon the great Subject of Elections, which is now Operating all over the Nation; but muſt ſay a Word or two, to a Circumſtance that I find affects us here mightily, I mean, Rumours of Plots, and Contrivances of bringing in the Pretender upon us; Landing *French* Troops to Support him, and having a great Party here, to join him; and this is come to ſuch a height, as to have ſome People tell us poſitively, it is Tranſacting, and a Correſpondence actually carrying on, to bring it to paſs.

Theſe are great Things, *I muſt own they were* of the laſt Conſequence for us to be concern'd about, *were there* any apparent Danger of the Matter of Fact; but as it ſhall ever be the Endeavour of the Author of this Paper, *to keep you awake*, as to real Dangers, ſo I cannot but think it equally my Duty, to make you eaſie, and prevent your being amus'd with imaginary Dangers. I cannot agree with thoſe People, who think it good Policy to make the People ſuſpicious and afraid, whether there be real occaſion of it or no —— But to come to the Matter.

We have ſeveral Letters, *the Copies of which are* induſtriouſly ſpread about, and are

are said to be *found in the Street*, which all tend to Allarm us in this Matter —— They are full of Cyphers, and *half-Sentences* —— Pointing at Persons, and suggesting Dangers —— From abroad, and from at Home: I'll first give you my Observations on these Letters themselves, and then speak a Word or two, to the Subject.

Firſt, as to the Letters, they seem to me, I confess, to carry all the Air of a weak undress'd, naked piece of Forgery, either of Zeal without Knowledge, or Malice without Wit, I know not whether —— I observe the Cyphers in them are plac'd, where the Thing to be conceal'd is of no Weight, and the Things of Consequence are left open —— The Names pointed at, are general, Numerous, and most of them inconsiderable —— The Expressions of a Plot or Design, to bring in the Pretender —— Have with them no hints of the Fact, or Methods for a Discovery.

In the next Place I observe, they pretend to be written, by Persons Employ'd in the very Plot itself —— If these Persons were so Employ'd, they must know something of the Fact, more than Suggestion? If they have abhorrence enough of the Thing, to make us suspect and apprehend it, they must have so much Concern for us, as to make a Discovery, or else the Thing is only to amuse and perplex us.

One Letter pretends to press, that a Discovery may be made —— But does not lead to one possible step for the making it; only gives a long List of Persons, whose Letters the Author proposes to be intercepted: But, first, —— What Letters must be intercepted? —— What, their Post Letters? Does the Writer of the Letter think, they that are Knaves enough to keep up a Correspondence, by Letters of so Fatal and Dangerous a Nature, are Fools enough, to let those Letters pass and repass by the Ordinary Post? —— The Letter Writers, pretend to have been sent over to *France* Express upon this Business; if then the Design were really to make a Discovery, the Author should have led the Government into some Method, or given some Clue, how the secret Correspondence of the Party should be discover'd, and their Messengers seiz'd upon ——

Next, I observe, the Authors of these Things, press the *Intercepting all the Letters*, which come to a Multitude of Persons, some of them to Men of one Character, some of another, even down to Distracted Mrs. *Jennes*, and Honest *Abel Roper*, from as high as the Ministers of State: This is so General, as can be no manner of Inlet to a secret Correspondence at all, and is enough to let any Body take the whole for an Amusement, for it gives no Light to any Body.

Besides, I cannot but hint here, that this *seems to smell* of a Practice, which *England* had like to have paid very dear for once, *and I hope will be very wary of again*; nothing is more easy, than to write Traiterous Letters to any Man, and then give notice to the Government, to have those Letters intercepted; and we all know this was a Popish Contrivance formerly, to destroy the Nation, and indeed it smells a little rank of *Dangerfields Meal-Tub*, and shocks me in the Credit of all the rest.

God be praised, the Tables are turn'd here; tho' it would be a Service to discover real Plots, yet, I hope, we shall no more be drawn into *Sham Plots*, and have Snares laid to entrap Innocent Men; tho we may see the Experiment made upon some, we shall not value in the fall; but let them tell me that approve of it, *whose turn it may be next*.

Our Cause, I hope, in this Nation, stands in need of no such Works of Darkness;

Darkness; I would be very loth to see the worst *Jacobite*, *High-flyer*, or *Sacheverellite* in the Nation, ruin'd by this Method; it is an old *Popish* practice, base in it's Contrivance, and bloody in its Execution; and this, if there were nothing else in it, makes me think these Letters have nothing in them but Sham, for this is not the practice of those, that are Enemies to the Pretender.

And now I come to the Substance of these suppos'd Letters, which is chiefly to insinuate, that there is a stated Design to bring over the Pretender, and to Land him here, with a *French* Force to Support him, &c. Upon my Word, this, if there were nothing else in it, shocks me, as to the reality of these Letters.

One Letter says, *I have been twice over with the King*, (the Pretender) *who will be ready to Land at such a Time*; another says, *If you can intercept any Letters, directed to the above nam'd Persons, perhaps, you may hear when the Ten Thousand Men are to be Landed, which are certainly ready to be Shipp'd off.*

Now this has so much Incongruity with Affairs abroad, that 'tis enough to shock any Man's Faith in all the rest. That there may be a Design ro restore the *Pretender*, I make no doubt; but it must be false, that 10000 Men are any where ready to be Shipp'd; or can make any Movement for such a Design, without our Knowledge; neither are the Men ready; neither are the King of *France*'s Circumstances such, as will admit them to be ready, he has not any Number of Ships ready to Transport them, or any Number of Men of War to Convey them; in short, the Posture of the Enemy every where, makes this Ridiculous.

But that I may not be suspected of a Design to rock you to sleep, and render you secure, while the Enemy may be awake, and so *Dalilah* like, not call to you, till the *Philistins* are upon you; I shall Examine two or three Things.

First, whose Interest it is, to have the Pretender make this Attempt at this time ——— This is too Nice a Question, to be answer'd in the Affirmative; but I take upon me to clear the High-Flying Party of it at this Time, or of their Senses, which you please; and this is the Design of the Things; I am not often an Advocate for the High Party——— But in this Thing, I think my self oblig'd to do them Justice, *viz.* That unless they are depriv'd of their Sense and Reason, quite given up to Blindness, and Sordid Ignorance, and are resolute to their own Destruction, they cannot be for the Pretender's coming, I mean not just now.

And my Reason is very plain.

This would unmask them, and expose the Nakedness of all they were doing; it would be like the Mob at *Edinburgh*, in the time of the Union; a Mine sprung before it's Time, it would be a Plot discover'd before it was ripe: To bring the Pretender in now, would spoil the Kettle of Fish, that has been so long a Dressing; there are a great many Preliminaries, Things to be done, before the main Work is gone about ——— The Poor People are to be Wheedl'd, and farther Exasperated, and the *Dissenters* are to be render'd more odious, and reduc'd; the Aversion to Tyranny must be a little remov'd, and the Doctrines of Hereditary Right and Non-Resistance, be a little farther Rooted among us ——— The Divisions among us must be caried on to a greater height, and more Animosity Rooted in the Minds of the People, one against another; all this Work must be done, before it is time for the Pretender to make any Attempt here.

Alas! should *the Pretender come just now*, he would be undone; we are not gone so far yet, but that his Name would reconcile us all ——— His coming would set us all to Rights, and we should lay aside Snarling at one another, and fall Unanimously upon him ——— Popery is a frightful Thing, the first Out-cry of it would Alarm the whole Nation.

Again, the Mobs and Tumults that have been rais'd, how have they been Fermented, not in behalf of the Pretender, but by crying

crying out of the *Church's Danger*, the Queen's *Danger*, and the Nation's *Danger* from the Diſſenters, Republicans, and we know not who; the Pretenders Name once put in, would have ſpoil'd all; how much ſoever he has been in the Deſign, they have not dar'd to own it, and ſhould but the Notion, of a deſign to bring the Pretender in, get among their Friends the Mob, *at this time*, they are all broke, and the People would be our own again.

So that in the Main, the Tories are diſtracted, if they talk of the Pretender now —— And an honeſt Man may be rather at ſome loſs to know whether, if ever we ſhould wiſh for the Attempt, we ſhould not wiſh for it now, as the thing that would immediately ſet us all to Rights again.

For theſe Reaſons, I cannot lay any ſtreſs upon theſe Street-Leters, but look upon them to be weak, empty Things —— And whether deſign'd to do Miſchief, or to do Good, are perfectly uncapable of either.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

The Volatile Cleanſer and Strengthner of the Reins.

BEING a moſt noble Specifick, Elixir of Minerals, which brings away viſibly, by the Urine, all Relicks of *Venereal* Injuries; ſcouring the Reins of all Foulneſs, Filth, Slime, or Matter, that either obſtructs the free Paſſage of the Urine, cauſes Sharpneſs of it, or too frequent Occaſions to make it, Stranguries, Ulcers, &c. tho' of the longeſt Date. Theſe Maladies are known by Pains and Weakneſs in the Back, Threads, Skins, Films, or Hairs flying about, or Matter ſettling at the Bottom of the Urine, its ſtrong Smell, &c. than which together with Gleets (the chief Cauſe being from the foulneſs of the Reins, tho' ſometimes Weakneſs only) nothing is more common after ill *Venereal* Cures. It not only cleanſes, but alſo, after a peculiar manner, moſt powerfully ſtrengthens the Reins, recovers their loſt Tone, and brings all thoſe Parts and Paſſages into their right Order, in both Sexes. *Price*, half a Guinea a Bottle, with Directions ſeal'd up, which is generally enough to cure any one Perſon. To be had at Mr. *Lawrence*'s Toy-Shop, at the *Griffin* the Corner of *Bucklers-Bury*, in the *Poultry*

A Sale of Goods for 7500 l. wherein there are no Blanks; goes on with very great Succeſs, and is not doubted but may be compleatly full by the latter end of this Month; the Undertakers Houſe againſt Southampton Street in the Strand, is now fitted up, and daily taking in Plate and other Goods, for the Contributors to View; the Lots, Tickets, and Propoſals, to be had at the ſaid Houſe —— Note, that at a Meeting of the Truſtees, and Mr. Loftouſe, one of the Caſhiers, on the 14th Inſtant, it was ordered, that the Receivers of Money for Tickets, do forthwith Pay to Mr. John Marſh, ſuch Money as ſhall be in their Hands, in order to place the ſame in the Caſhiers, for their Payment of ſuch Goods from time to time, as ſhall be got ready and brought to the Undertakers Houſe: Tickets to be had at Nixon's in Fleetſtreet; North's, by Guildhall; London's Threadneedle ſtreet; Hamlin's, and Facks, in Swithins Alley; Thurne's, in Cornhill; Turks Head in Artillery Lane, Digory's at the Seven Dials, Coffee Houſes; Mr. Powells at the Bee-hive on St. Mary-Hill; Mr. Wellin at the Crown in Exchange Ally; and Mr. Bacher's at the Crown in Doctors Commons, Victualling Houſes; beſides all thoſe mention'd in the Printed Propoſals.

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